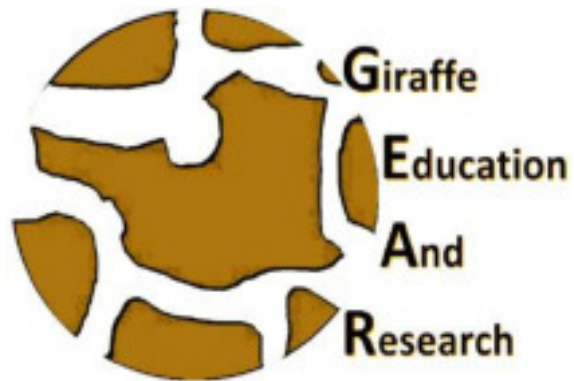


**Giraffe Research And Monitoring (GEAR)
Lake Mburo National Park**



Update Report

May 2018

Identification & Training of Research Assistants

After interviews with possible candidates, Natamba Jossam and Kyasiimire Kellen were hired as project researchers. Jossam is a local farmer who is also working as a boda boda driver. Kellen's family live within the community. She has finished school and has been looking for employment or further study opportunities.



First team meeting
Left to right, Project co-ordinator Nshaija Nathan, Jossam, Kellen.

Studying the photo IDs of different individual giraffe during the first trip into Lake Mbuho National Park.



Understanding the bigger picture: watching the BBC documentary "Giraffes – Africa's Gentle Giants".

Organisation of School Trips

The team visited a number of schools in the area surrounding Lake Mburo National Park to determine interest in a Park trip and find out what timing would work best for them. A total of nine one day trips of 50 students per trip will be organised into the Park with local students (see below for list of schools). Upon completion of these trips, funds will be assessed to determine if the budget can extend to accommodate additional trips.

Trip 1:

St. Steven's Model School

- Located in Akashenshero, only a few kilometres from the Park's eastern border
- 230 pupils in total attend the school
- Went on a trip organised through GCF funds last year (unfortunately we didn't spot the giraffe during their trip)

Trip 2:

Shammacon Primary School

- Located in Akageti, a small trading centre on the main road just north of the Park.
- Students are from both the local area and further afield such as Kampala and Kable.

Trip 3:

St. Mark's Primary School

- Located in Akageti
- A total of 550 students attend the school.
- Their syllabus include a section about the National Parks in Uganda.
- Currently holds the top PLE marks in the district.

Trip 4:

Karengo Primary School

- Located in Akageti
- A total of 180 students attend the school.
- The school tried to organise a trip to visit the Park themselves last year, but they could not raise sufficient money for transport costs.

Trip 5:

Nyakahita Primary School

- Located just off the main road to the north-east of the Park.
- A total of 270 students attend the school.
- Last year went on a trip organised with GCF funding. Students saw the giraffe.

Trip 6:

Nshara Parents School

- Located in the trading centre Rwakobo, only a few kilometres from the northern Nshara gate of the Park.

- A total of 182 students attend the school.
- Last year went on a trip organised with GCF funding. Students saw the giraffe.

Trip 7:

Students from several smaller primary schools in Akageti. All schools are very eager to attend these trips, but some schools only have between three and ten students old enough to join. We will combine students to bring number to 50 students for one trip.

Trip 8:

Rurambiira Primary School

- Located Akashenshero, only a few kilometres from the Park's eastern border.
- A total of 214 pupils attend the school.
- Went on a trip organised through GCF funds last year (unfortunately we didn't spot the giraffe during their trip)

Trip 9:

St. Paul Nursery & Primary School, Ruragara Church School & Nyakashshara Primary School

- Three schools combined to reach 50 students
- The schools are in fishing villages bordering Lake Kacheera, which runs near the eastern boundary of the Park.
- Nyakashshara PS went on a trip organised with GCF funding last year and students saw the giraffe.

Giraffe News

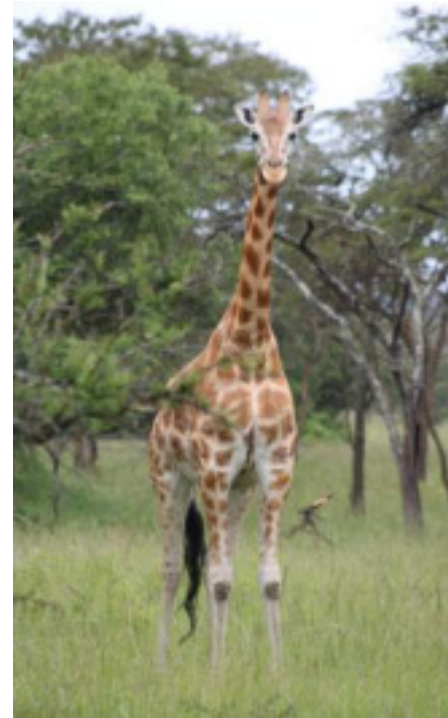
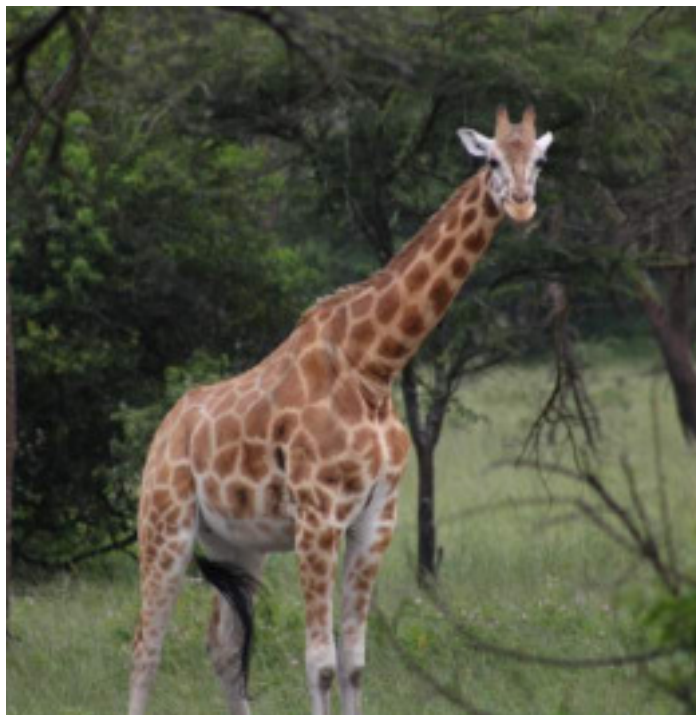
The giraffe spend most of their time moving up and down Zebra & Acacia Track Valley and only occasionally move over to Research Track Valley. They seem to prefer tall stands of *Acacia polyacantha* trees for browsing, but also often rest in the shade below these trees during the heat of the day.

In March one of the male giraffe, Leiden, was seen limping badly on his front leg. With no apparent wounds but a slightly swollen joint it was assumed he had some muscle or ligament damage. By April he had fully recovered and resumed his sparring with the other males. During the time he was injured he was often spotted alone. Interestingly, when he was with the herd the other three males were usually in close proximity to him.



Far left: Leiden limping on his front left. *Left:* The other three males, Bernard, Kule & Rocket stay close to Leiden.

The long awaited arrival of the first baby finally occurred on the 4th /5th April. Mum and baby have only been spotted a few times, but luckily an UWA guide managed to capture a few photos. After finding all other 14 individuals it was concluded that the female, Morse, is the new mother. Below are photos of Morse on the 3rd April, obviously very pregnant. She was spotted on the 14th April by herself near the junction of Zebra and Impala Tracks. She was quick to move off into thicker bushes, no baby could be spotted unfortunately.



First photo of
the new
addition!

This report was compiled in partnership with and supported by:

